

SENATE RESOLUTION 184

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to recognize MTSU Tennis Coach Dale Short on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service in education and coaching; and

WHEREAS, Dale Short is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as the Head Coach for the tennis program at Middle Tennessee State University for nineteen years and who will be taking a much-deserved retirement this year; and

WHEREAS, a gifted athlete in his own right as a student athlete, Mr. Short earned All-Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) honors in both 1979 and 1980 and was named OVC Player of the Year as a senior at MTSU; during his playing career, he compiled a 60-25 singles record and a winning percentage of .706 that still ranks fifth all-time at MTSU; when the OVC celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1988, he was named to the league's all-time tennis team; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Coach Short took over the MTSU tennis program as Head Coach, and he has since posted 383 victories, 11 regular-season championships, and nine conference tournament titles; the MTSU Blue Raiders have participated in eight of the last thirteen NCAA Team Championships and advanced to the second round for the second time in school history in 2002; and

WHEREAS, during his thirteen years as a coach in the OVC, Dale Short compiled a conference record of 87-6 and was honored eight times as OVC Coach of the Year; also during this time, the MTSU tennis program won ten consecutive regular season titles and nine tournament championships; and

WHEREAS, since his Blue Raiders joined the Sun Belt Conference in 2001, they have earned NCAA berths four times, claimed thirteen singles and ten doubles All-Conference honors and won the conference championship in 2005; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure, Coach Short's doubles teams have been ranked in the Top Ten in the country six times; he has also coached eight different players to All-America honors and one Region III Senior Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he has had forty-nine individuals earn All-Conference honors, including all six starters from the 1997 team and nearly the entire team in 1998; eight of his players have been named Conference Player of the Year, and another player earned Sun Belt Tournament MVP honors in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Coach Short's three-season record as the Women's Head Tennis Coach at MTSU stands at 63-28 with three consecutive OVC Championships; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2001, Dale Short was inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a player and as one of the top tennis coaches in the nation; and

WHEREAS, he is the director of the Tennessee Junior Qualifying Championships and has served on the Tennessee Tennis Association Junior Committee; he has served as a member of the NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Regional Advisory and Selection Committee and was Chairman of the Southeast (NCAA Region III) Coaches Committee; and

WHEREAS, Coach Short is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dale Short has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and student athletes alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Dale Short our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement after many years of success as Head Coach of the Middle Tennessee State University tennis program and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.